

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Board of Regents

**From:** Board Office

**Subject:** Revision of the Student Disciplinary Regulations at Iowa State University

**Date:** June 5, 2000

**Recommended Action:**

Approve the revised Student Disciplinary Regulations at Iowa State University.

**Executive Summary:**

Iowa State University is requesting approval of a revision in its Student Disciplinary Regulations. The revision process began in 1997 when a committee of students, staff, and faculty initiated a comprehensive review of the Student Code of Conduct at Iowa State University. The proposed revisions have been reviewed by the appropriate administrative officers at ISU, student leaders in the Government of the Student Body (GSB), the Graduate Student Senate, the Inter-Residence Hall Association, student organizations, and the University's legal counsel. The proposed revision was reviewed by the Iowa Attorney General's office and found satisfactory.

Individuals, student organizations, and campus organizations are expected to observe the policies, rules, and regulations of Iowa State University, the City of Ames, the State of Iowa, and the United States of America. University policies have been designed to protect individuals and the campus community and to create an environment conducive to achieving the academic mission of the institution. The following points were emphasized in revising the Student Disciplinary Regulations: philosophy, safety, clarity, flexibility, equal treatment, and fairness of treatment.

This report addresses the following action steps which are included in the Board's Strategic Plan:

- 4.2.1.2 Evaluate each unit's efforts at achieving greater efficiency and effectiveness in operations and procedures.
- 4.2.1.3 Re-engineer processes as appropriate to improve efficiency and effectiveness.

**Background:**

The purposes of the Student Code of Conduct are to:

- \* set forth the specific authority and responsibility of the University in maintaining social discipline;
- \* establish guidelines that facilitate a just and civil campus community; and
- \* outline the educational process for determining students' and student organizations' responsibility for alleged violations of University regulations.

This judicial process will follow established procedures for ensuring fundamental fairness and an educational experience that facilitates the development of the individual and of the student organization.

**Analysis:**

All changes in content and wording adopted in the proposed revision reflect the following points of emphasis:

*Philosophy.* Maintaining an environment for intellectual and personal growth and promoting respect and responsibility among students are now the central objectives of the Code.

*Safety.* Major changes regarding safety on the campus include:

- \* An explicit policy of permitting tougher disciplinary action when the offense involves violence or threatened violence.
- \* New provisions allowing for interim action such as no-contact order pending hearing, with a right for the accused student to seek review of the order; and
- \* Expansion and clarification of harassment rules, including the addition of the recently adopted Racial and Ethnic Harassment Policy.

*Clarity.* The descriptions of violations and procedures have been clarified.

*Flexibility.* A greater degree of due process is provided for more serious cases, while informal resolutions for less serious cases are now available. At the same time, even in the more serious cases, students are given the opportunity to choose a less cumbersome process or to seek an agreed resolution of the case.

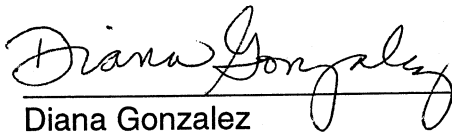
*Equal Treatment.* The revised regulations centralize monitoring, reporting, and investigations in order to ensure fair and equal treatment and eliminate inconsistencies in the old system.

*Fairness of Treatment.* Additional due process protections have been added to assure fairness to students.

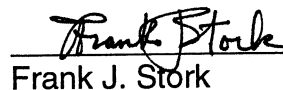
- \* Students are provided the opportunity of a hearing under the state's Administrative Procedures Act for cases involving possible suspension or dismissal;
- \* When interim action (such as hold on enrollment or interim suspension) has been imposed, the student is granted a right to appeal the decision;
- \* A separate process has been created to deal with medical withdrawal, which incorporates medical expertise and removes the procedure from the Code.

The revised Student Disciplinary Regulations at Iowa State University have been reviewed by the Board Office and by the Iowa Attorney General's Office and are recommended for approval.

A copy of the revised Student Disciplinary Regulations is included in the Regent Exhibit Book.

  
Diana Gonzalez

Approved:

  
Frank J. Stork

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